



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 13, 2011
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Administration Division, Community Development Department
SUBJECT: Council Subcommittee On Homelessness And Community Relations

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Support, in concept, the consolidation of Bringing Our Community Home, Common Ground Santa Barbara and the Regional Homeless Advisory Committees into a regional homeless collaborative, and direct Council and staff to participate in a planning workshop to be held in Fall 2011;
- B. Set aside Fiscal Year 2013 Human Services funding to pay the City's fair share of staffing costs of the homeless collaborative, with the expectation that other public government bodies will also step up with their fair share;
- C. If appropriate, offer in-kind office space on the South Coast for the homeless collaborative;
- D. Direct staff to work with the County of Santa Barbara Housing and Community Development Department on the selection of a new homeless management information system (HMIS);
- E. Direct Police Department staff to develop measurable outcomes for the Enhanced Restorative Policing Pilot Program and report semi-annually on the progress of meeting these outcomes, including any discernible changes in the neighborhood issues near Casa Esperanza; and
- F. Direct staff to complete Phase I of the *Real Change Not Spare Change* alternate giving campaign and suspend the implementation of Phase II.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On November 9, 2010, Council authorized the Subcommittee on Homelessness and Community Relations (Subcommittee) to reconvene for the purpose of reviewing the progress on the implementation of the twelve recommended strategies outlined in the *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness in the City of Santa Barbara (Strategies)* and to address the issue of meal provisions city-wide. The Subcommittee, comprised of Mayor Helene Schneider and council members Dale Francisco and Bendy White, met a total of seven times. Their meetings addressed food distribution, homeless coordination, data collection and the Common Ground

vulnerability survey. An update on the implementation of the *Strategies* was also provided and six of the twelve strategies were deemed completed by the Subcommittee (see Attachment 1).

The Subcommittee decided that it would be impractical to recommend a change in food distribution at this time due to the costs involved, the potential impact on other neighborhoods and the fact that access to services is already provided under the current model. The Subcommittee is optimistic that the neighborhood impacts of Casa Esperanza's noon meal provision will lessen due to the recent enhancement of the Restorative Policing Program.

The Subcommittee acknowledged that there is a need for one centralized unit or person to coordinate and take ownership of all activities related to homelessness. Therefore, they are recommending that the City support, in concept, the consolidation of Bringing Our Community Home and the Regional Homeless Advisory Committees into a regional homeless collaborative, and direct Council and staff to participate in a planning workshop to be held in the Fall. In addition, they are recommending that Council set aside Human Service funding to support staffing of this new homeless collaborative. In addition, if appropriate, the City could offer in-kind office space on the South Coast for the homeless collaborative.

The Subcommittee would also like to see City staff work with the County on the selection of a new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) so that the City can easily access data on homelessness.

Finally, the Subcommittee reviewed the progress of the *Real Change Not Spare Change* alternate giving program and is recommending that Council direct staff to complete Phase I of the campaign and suspend the implementation of Phase II.

BACKGROUND:

On June 17, 2008, the City Council established a Council Subcommittee, made up of three Council members (Chair Iya Falcone, Dale Francisco and Helene Schneider), to study a range of issues related to homeless services and neighborhood impacts. This committee was charged with making recommendations to the full Council, with input from community members, on strategies to address five identified issues.

A total of nine community meetings were held from July 2008 to January 2009. The subcommittee members gathered input from City staff, local businesses, homeless service providers, community members, and homeless persons. On February 24, 2009, Council approved the *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness in the City of Santa Barbara (Strategies)* and directed staff to implement the recommended strategies and return to the Council in 12 months with a status report.

On March 30, 2010, staff provided an update to Council on the twelve recommended strategies.

On November 9, 2010, Council authorized the subcommittee to reconvene within 60 days to review the progress on the implementation of the twelve recommended strategies and address the issue of meal provisions city-wide. Council also appointed Bendy White to the subcommittee to fill the vacancy left by Iya Falcone.

A total of seven meetings were held from December 2010 through August 2011. Three meetings focused exclusively on food distribution and included several stakeholders in the discussion. The final three meetings focused on homeless coordination, data collection and the Common Ground vulnerability survey. An update on the implementation of the *Strategies* was also provided (see Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION:

Food Distribution

Since the approval of the *Strategies* in 2009, there have been numerous discussions concerning the provision of meals to homeless persons and others in need. Specifically, questions regarding whether lunch should be served to the general homeless population in one centralized location or spread out to smaller locations in different areas of the City. The Council Subcommittee devoted three meetings to this topic and consulted with stakeholders from the Milpas Community Association, Casa Esperanza, Organic Soup Kitchen, County Environmental Health, Rescue Mission, St. Brigid's, Doctors without Walls, City of Goleta, City of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Planning Commission, Downtown Organization, Salvation Army, and the Sheriff's Department.

Jennifer Bernstein from County Environmental Health presented six options for food distribution: permitted shelter kitchen, permitted food facility, hot truck, cold truck, temporary food facility and vending machines. The subcommittee asked a sub-group, including Casa Esperanza and Organic Soup Kitchen, to devise a food distribution model and present it to the full group.

After hearing the presentation from the sub-group, the Subcommittee decided that it was impractical to obtain sustainable funding (\$235,000 - \$280,000 per year) in this economic climate when funding for current programs is being reduced or eliminated. Other issues considered included the consequences of moving people away from a location that provides one-stop access to services, medical care, showers, restrooms and trash receptacles; and the potential impact on other neighborhoods by moving 100+ meals now served at Casa Esperanza to other locations, especially without adequate restroom and/or trash facilities.

Therefore, since the options presented were too costly and the food distribution needs are already being met, the Subcommittee is not recommending a change in food distribution at this time.

Enhanced Restorative Policing Pilot Program

The Redevelopment Agency Board approved a three-year Enhanced Restorative Policing Pilot Program, which will include the addition of a second officer to the program, three part-time outreach workers and six part-time community service liaisons. The outreach workers will work with the two full-time restorative police officers to identify and assist homeless persons with housing and services. The community service liaisons will be assigned in teams of two to State Street, Cabrillo Boulevard and Milpas Street to be the eyes and ears of the Restorative Policing Program as well as local merchants. This enhancement should, among other things, mitigate the impact of the noon meal provision at Casa Esperanza.

The Subcommittee is recommending that Council direct Police Department staff to develop measurable outcomes for the Enhanced Restorative Policing Pilot Program and report semi-annually on the progress of meeting these outcomes, including any discernible changes in the neighborhood issues near Casa Esperanza.

Homeless Coordination

There was much discussion at the subcommittee meetings regarding homeless coordination. It was mentioned several times that, as a community, we are 'program rich and coordination poor'. There is a need for one centralized unit or person to coordinate and take ownership of all activities related to homelessness. Staff gathered information about homeless coordinator positions in other jurisdictions and reported that it was difficult to find communities who had an employee working strictly on homeless issues, with the exception of Santa Monica which has a high sales tax (10.25%) and a large business license fee which helps support the City's homeless programs.

In August, the Subcommittee heard a presentation from Bringing Our Community Home (BOCH) and Common Ground Santa Barbara (CGSB) regarding an effort underway to consolidate BOCH, CGSB and the various Homeless Advisory Committees in the County (HAC's). BOCH is the countywide Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and they have been in operation since 2007. CGSB is a new endeavor that recently administered the vulnerability survey and developed a Top 100 Homeless Vulnerability List. And there are three HAC's in Santa Barbara County, including the South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee, that deal with homeless issues.

The proposed consolidation would combine BOCH, CGSB and the Homeless Advisory Committees into one regional homeless collaborative led by a Leadership Council comprised of elected representatives from the County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Goleta, Carpinteria and Lompoc. A Coordination Committee, made up of County and City department leaders, would report to the

Leadership Council and coordinate the work of a Ten-Year Plan Committee; Community Action Group; Housing, Shelter and Treatment providers; and Data and Performance Evaluation. The proposal includes a full-time Homeless Administrator and a part-time administrative assistant who would be supported by each jurisdiction. In addition, the existing County and City staff resources dedicated to the administration of the current model would fold into the new structure. See Attachment 2 for the full Draft proposal.

The Subcommittee is recommending that the City support this consolidation, in concept, and direct Council and staff to participate in a planning workshop to be held this Fall.

BOCH is currently applying to foundations for transitional funding for staffing the new homeless collaborative. This funding will bridge the gap between now and July 1, 2012 when public funding would expect to become available. The Subcommittee is recommending that Council set aside Fiscal Year 2013 Human Services funding to pay the City's fair share of staffing costs, with the expectation that other public government bodies will also step up with their fair share. In addition, if appropriate, the City could offer in-kind office space on the South Coast for the homeless collaborative.

Data Collection

The Subcommittee agreed that there is currently a lack of reliable data regarding homeless persons in Santa Barbara, although they recognize that the Common Ground Vulnerability Survey is a good start. The County of Santa Barbara is upgrading their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to make it more user friendly, and they hope to expand the use of the new system to all homeless service providers. It may be possible for the City to purchase a license with the same vendor so that information can be easily accessed. Therefore, the Subcommittee is recommending that Council direct staff to work with the County of Santa Barbara Housing and Community Development Department on the selection of its new HMIS system.

Real Change Not Spare Change Alternate Giving Campaign

On November 24, 2009, the Redevelopment Agency Board approved a \$75,000 grant to implement the Panhandling Education and Alternative Giving Campaign. The Downtown Organization (D.O.) was the grantee and assumed the leadership and management role of the Campaign. On April 20, 2010 the *Real Change Not Spare Change* program was launched. The Campaign includes a comprehensive education effort focused on informing the public about the negative cycle of panhandling and promoting the redirection of charitable giving to support for individuals in need. The Campaign encourages the positive intent of those who give by providing a convenient alternative in the form of counter-top donation boxes located in local stores. All funds raised through this program have been directed to street outreach to the homeless in the program area.

A second phase of the Campaign was discussed as a possibility that, if pursued, could involve some form of street side donation boxes and additional educational efforts. A second phase would require the selection of an entity to manage the phase, a detailed work program, planning and approval process and additional funding, possibly from the Redevelopment Agency.

The Subcommittee is recommending that Council direct staff to complete Phase I of the *Real Change Not Spare Change* alternate giving campaign and suspend Phase II for now.

Update on Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness

An Update on the *Strategies* was presented to the Subcommittee for their review and is included as Attachment 1. Six of the twelve strategies have been completed to the extent possible and work will continue on the six remaining strategies as well as any of the Subcommittee recommendations that are approved by Council today.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

If approved, the recommendation to support staffing for the homeless collaborative will come before Council in late October or early November 2011 as a part of the Human Services funding commitment for Fiscal Year 2013. There may also be a minimal cost to purchase a license for the Homeless Management Information System. If needed, this request would come to Council at a later date.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Update on *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness in the City of Santa Barbara*
 2. Draft Proposal to Restructure Bringing Our Community Home-Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness and Regional Homeless Advisory Committees

PREPARED BY: Sue Gray, Administrative Services Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Council Subcommittee on Homelessness and Community Relations

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

Santa Barbara City Council Subcommittee on
Homelessness and Community Relations
Update on *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness in the
City of Santa Barbara*
Updated August 29, 2011

The implementation of many of the *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness* is progressing. Below is a summary of the progress to-date for each of the 12 strategies.

BACKGROUND:

June 17, 2008: City Council established a Council Subcommittee, made up of three Council members (Falcone, Francisco and Schneider), to study a range of issues related to homeless services and neighborhood impacts.

July 2008 to January 2009: Nine subcommittee meetings were held.

February 24, 2009: Council approved the *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness in the City of Santa Barbara (Strategies)*

March 30, 2010: Twelve-month status update presented to Council

November 9, 2010: City Council reconvenes Council Subcommittee, made up of three Council members (Mayor Schneider, Councilmember Francisco and Councilmember White) to review the progress on the implementation of the twelve recommended strategies outlined in *Strategies* and address the issue of meal provisions city-wide and regionally.

The *Strategies* include 12 recommendations organized into three interrelated categories (prevention, intervention, and enforcement) and are intended to be implemented as a package. Each of the 12 recommended strategies and to-date progress made towards their implementation are discussed below.

PREVENTION:

Recommendation: *Develop a panhandling and alternate giving campaign in collaboration with the Downtown Organization, the Conference and Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging and Restaurant Association, homeless service providers, the faith-based community and homeless advocates.*

The goals of the Campaign are to 1) educate residents and visitors about the negative cycle of giving to panhandlers, 2) change the behavior of those who give, 3) change the behavior and attitude of those who avoid downtown because of panhandlers, and 4) redirect the generosity of individuals to fund street outreach that serves very low income people in crisis.

Background:

On November 24, 2009, the Redevelopment Agency Board approved a \$75,000 grant to implement the Panhandling Education and Alternative Giving Campaign. The Downtown Organization (D.O.) was the grantee and assumed the leadership and management role with the Campaign. A second phase of the Campaign was briefly discussed as a possibility that, if pursued, could involve some form of streetside donation boxes and additional educational efforts. If pursued, a second phase would require an entity to manage the second phase, a detailed work program, planning and approval process and additional funding, possibly from the Redevelopment Agency. No movement has occurred on a second phase.

On April 20, 2010 the Real Change Not Spare Change program was launched. Led by the D.O., the Campaign includes a comprehensive education effort focused on informing the public about the negative cycle of panhandling and promoting the redirection of charitable giving to provide beneficial support for individuals in need. The Campaign encourages the positive intent of those who give by providing a convenient alternative in the form of counter-top donation boxes located in local stores. All funds raised through this program have been directed to street outreach to the homeless in the program area. The alternative giving element of the Campaign has been managed by Casa Esperanza and they also lead the street outreach effort.

Implementation of the Campaign has been carried out by a collaboration of public, business, non-profit, and community-based organizations. The Campaign has coordinated messaging and local media advertising to effectively reach residents and tourists that frequent the Downtown, Waterfront and Lower Milpas areas. The initial phase of the campaign has utilized countertop donation boxes placed in local businesses as an easily accessible alternative to placing cash into the hands of individuals on the street.

Although designed primarily as an educational campaign, the lack of revenue generated and the overall lack of participation by downtown businesses has been disconcerting. Due to the continuing efforts regarding the initial Campaign, a second phase of the Campaign has not been discussed at the staff level.

Status:

The campaign has been in up and running for approximately 16 months. Following are some general statistics regarding the campaign:

- **RDA Grant #522** - \$75,000 for the Downtown Organization to manage and run a public campaign aimed at educating the public regarding the negative cycle of panhandling. The grant currently has a balance of approximately \$16,000.
- **Businesses** with donation boxes, posters, countertop signs: 49 (32 with donation boxes).
- **Real Change Days:** July 21, 2010 - 6 businesses raised \$867. October 20, 2010 - 13 businesses raised \$2,510; June 15, 2011 – 8 businesses raised \$250.
- **Text Donations** (as of 3-3-11): \$80. This option has been terminated.
- **Promotion and Production Plan:**
 - ✓ English public awareness ads in the *Santa Barbara NewsPress* and the *Santa Barbara Independent* running from the end of April through the end of the year.
 - ✓ English public awareness ads online at Noozhawk.com and Edhat.com running in April through the end of the year.

- ✓ English and Spanish public awareness ads and PSAs on the radio (KSBL and KIST) will be running through the end of the year.
- ✓ English and Spanish public awareness ads on MTD busses and shuttles, indefinitely.
- ✓ Countertop signs, donation boxes and posters continue to be distributed by the Downtown Organization staff and the Chamber of Commerce staff. English and Spanish are available.
- **Targeting:** The DO staff completed month-long survey of the number of panhandlers in the 400-1200 blocks of State Street, once daily M-F. Problem blocks were identified and those merchants were targeted to participate in Real Change Day and offered campaign materials.
- **Outstanding items:**
 - ✓ Message Card – “How to respond to panhandlers” in production
 - ✓ Rack Card or Tri Fold Brochure for Hotels in production

The Council Subcommittee is recommending that Phase II of the campaign be suspended for the time being.

Recommendation: Continue looking for opportunities to assist with affordable housing projects, especially those involving permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals.

The City is assisting four affordable housing projects that include units for permanent supportive housing for homeless persons and is also funding two rental assistance programs targeted to the homeless.

1. With financial assistance from the City and its Redevelopment Agency, the City’s Housing Authority just completed construction of **Artisan Court** (416–424 East Cota Street), a below market-rate rental housing development comprised of 56 studio units serving a mixed population of special needs individuals, homeless youth aging out of foster care, and low-income downtown workers. The project is now fully occupied.

2. With financial assistance from the City and its Redevelopment Agency, the nonprofit organization, Transition House, has commenced the **Mom’s Place** project which is located directly across the street from Artisan Court at 421-425 East Cota Street. The project consists of construction of a new building with eight new rental units and a childcare facility and rehabilitation of an existing building with eight rental units. Transition House is dedicated to assisting homeless families by providing housing, support services, child care, and job training. The Mom’s Place project is expected to be completed by spring of 2012.

3. With financial assistance from the City’s Redevelopment Agency, the City’s Housing Authority has developed plans to build a below market-rate rental housing development at 512 Bath Street (**Bradley Studios** project) with 512 Bath Street 53 studio units (plus one two-bedroom manager’s unit) that will serve homeless persons and downtown workers. The Housing Authority submitted an application for low-income housing tax credits in March. If awarded, the project would commence construction before the end of 2011.

4. On January 25, 2011 the Redevelopment Agency Board approved a \$1,150,000 grant in Redevelopment Agency Housing Setaside Funds for the acquisition of 2904 State

Street by the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara. The property consists of seven rooms and a two-bedroom manager's unit. Previous residents vacated the property and were provided with relocation assistance by the Housing Authority. A lease with **WillBridge**, a local nonprofit organization that provides housing and supportive services to the homeless, was executed with an effective date of July 1, 2011. On that date WillBridge took over control of the property and shortly after had all units occupied with qualified clients.

5. The City has awarded a grant of federal HOME funds to the City's Housing Authority for operation of the **Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA)**. Under TBRA, the Housing Authority will provide rental assistance to homeless persons much like the Section 8 Program. Participants in TBRA pay 30% of their income for rent, and TBRA pays the balance. As currently funded, TBRA will provide assistance for approximately 18 persons for a two-year term while they are on the Section 8 waiting list. The City expects to continue to provide future funding for TBRA on an annual basis.

6. The City is the lead agency on a \$1,200,000 grant from the State of California **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)** under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Since September 2009, \$550,000 has been used to assist 512 persons with financial assistance and supportive services to maintain or access permanent housing (270 Prevention/242 Rapid Re-Housing).

City staff will continue to seek opportunities for permanent supportive affordable housing projects.

INTERVENTION:

Recommendation: *Encourage coordination and cooperation of street outreach teams and the Police Department to work with those on the Top 100 open container offender list.*

City Police and homeless street outreach workers have met intermittently since June 2009 under the coordination of the Santa Barbara County-wide 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. They have collaborated on issues such as **camp cleanups**, **release of information** forms for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requirements, **emergency parking issues** and **jail discharge planning**. City Police now notify street outreach workers once a 72-hour clean-up notice has been posted, which allows the outreach workers time to work with people involved to offer them shelter/housing and ensure that important documents and possessions are not lost.

Most recently, this group worked to develop a list of the **100 most vulnerable homeless** persons in Santa Barbara in order to focus resources on getting them housed. This list was then combined with the **Common Ground Santa Barbara** vulnerability index list developed in February 2011 by interviewing homeless persons on the street. Housing providers and service providers are now working with one list of the most vulnerable homeless persons in order to focus resources to get them housed.

This objective has been completed.

Recommendation: *If shelter service providers wish to amend conditional use permits to allow for an increase in their year round beds for vulnerable populations (e.g. women with children, elderly, youth aging out of the foster care system, persons with medical conditions and persons on the Top 100 offender list who are ready to get off the street and into recovery), work with them and their neighbors in the amendment process to assess the potential impact on the neighborhood and identify mitigation strategies.*

On March 26, 2009, the Planning Commission approved amendments to Casa Esperanza's Conditional Use Permit to **temporarily increase** the year-round shelter by 40 beds (for a total of 140 beds) from April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, to house vulnerable populations. The Commission also allowed Casa Esperanza, with the approval of the Police Chief, the ability to increase the number of beds (up to 10%), when warranted and at the request of the Police, in order to respond to critical weather or public safety needs. Recently, the City's Overnight Accommodation Mitigation funds, which were left over from the Motel Voucher Program, were identified as a source to pay for these **police beds**.

This recommendation has been completed.

Recommendation: *Consider using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Redevelopment Agency funds for capital improvements in the lower Milpas Street area to mitigate the impact of homelessness.*

The Community Development and Human Services Committee recommended allocating \$25,000 of the City's Fiscal Year 2011 CDBG funds to construct a six-foot high chain link fence around the bleachers and restrooms at the Cabrillo Ball Field to discourage illegal camping, drug activity and loitering. The City's Capital Improvement Program anticipates construction of pedestrian lighting and sidewalk infill on lower Milpas Street in Fiscal Year 2014, following completion of the U.S. Highway 101 improvements. This improvement project is not yet funded, but may be considered as a future Redevelopment Agency project as early as Fiscal Year 2012.

The City's Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) will continue to identify future Neighborhood Improvement Task Force capital projects.

Recommendation: *The significant need for additional detox beds is recognized and staff is directed to work with relevant agencies to help them with securing locations and funding for more detox beds and recovery beds for homeless individuals with substance abuse issues.*

The Project Recovery Detox Program, operated by the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) at Casa Esperanza, has 12 beds for their 14-day residential detox program. Due to demand, since December 1, 2009, both dorms (six beds each) have been used for men; women needing detox are being sent to North County through a collaboration of County Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS), Casa Esperanza, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA), Good Samaritan Shelter, and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE).

A working subcommittee of the South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee spent approximately 15 months researching suitable locations and funding options for a possible opportunity acquisition of property to house Project Recovery. On March 15, the Redevelopment Agency Board approved an **\$865,000 grant to the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB) for the purchase of 1020 Placido Avenue**. The HACSB will own the property, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse will operate Project Recovery, and the County of Santa Barbara will continue to fund the Project Recovery Program. The improved location will continue to provide 12 beds for detox services; however, the new location provides for much more flexibility in the number of men vs. women served.

In addition, CADA applied for and received a City Human Services grant of \$20,000 to support the ongoing operation of the detox program.

This recommendation has been completed.

Recommendation: *Continue and expand the Restorative Policing Program to work with homeless persons with mental illness.*

All Tactical Patrol Force officers are trained in the restorative policing process. In February 2010, the Police Department hosted a ***Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement Personnel*** for City police officers and surrounding organizations. In May 2011, another four-day *Crisis Intervention Training* was held in collaboration with Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, the Santa Barbara Police Department, and the Santa Maria Police Department.

In June 2011, as part of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, Council approved a **3-year Enhanced Restorative Policing Pilot Project**. The City has assigned a second officer to the program and the Police Department is in the process of hiring 3 part-time outreach workers and 6 part-time community service liaisons. The outreach workers will work with the 2 full-time restorative police officers to identify and assist homeless persons with housing and services. The community service liaisons will be assigned in teams of 2 to State Street, Cabrillo Boulevard and Milpas Street to be the eyes and ears of the Restorative Policing Program as well as local merchants.

The officers assigned to the restorative policing unit continue to divide their attention between those persons who have significant mental health/homeless issues and those who have alcoholism/homeless issues. This bifurcated approach has led to successes in assisting the worst chronic inebriates in seeking treatment. Working in cooperation with the City Attorney, District Attorney, Superior Court, County Jail Staff and Defense Attorneys, the officers have begun to better utilize incarceration time to advance detox efforts. Fostering those relationships with the homeless, the officers have arranged for and transported volunteer clients directly to non-profit treatment centers. The Restorative Unit continues to see success in individualized attention and the enhancement of the program will ensure an increase in the number of people assisted. The greatest success comes from those individuals who have minor to moderate mental health issues and/or drug and alcohol issues.

Measurable outcomes for the Enhanced Restorative Policing Pilot Program will be developed and the progress of meeting these outcomes will be reported on semi-annually.

Recommendation: *Work with service providers to secure funding for relocation funds and emergency hotel vouchers and programs to help reconnect people with their families.*

In June 2009, Council approved a \$45,000 grant to Transition House for a pilot project to fund a **Hotel Voucher Project** (HVP) to provide safe accommodations for homeless families with children who wish to enter Transition House and participate in services but are denied entrance due lack of bed space. At the same time, due to the increased need for shelter, Transition House began a waiting list and offered those on the waiting list case management services and/or referrals as needed. To date, only 8 families have utilized hotel vouchers. Many families were able to find ways to stay off the street thanks to the waiting list. People found that they were often able to stay with a friend or continue on for a few days or more in their apartment because they have a plan—the landlord, the friend, or the family member was more willing to keep them on a little longer knowing that they would soon leave to join Transition House. Only \$5,000 has been expended for hotel vouchers.

City staff will continue to work with police, outreach and service providers to develop strategies aimed at reconnecting homeless with their families.

ENFORCEMENT:

Recommendation: *Adoption of a City ordinance that is more restrictive on solicitation.*

In August 2009, Council amended SBMC Chapter 9.50 to prohibit "**abusive panhandling**" (e.g., blocking, following, threatening, and/or touching the person being panhandled) entirely within the City, with the provision that the effective date of the ordinance be delayed until the Panhandling Education and Alternative Giving Campaign was established. The amended ordinance also prohibits "**active panhandling**" while on a public bench or other public seating area in the 400-1200 blocks of State Street, lower Milpas Street, or Cabrillo Boulevard between Castillo Street and Milpas Street, and actively panhandling in areas where the person being panhandled is less able to move away, such as while waiting at a bus stop or sitting at an outdoor dining establishment. Passive panhandling (e.g., holding a sign without a verbal request) is allowed under this ordinance. With Redevelopment Agency Board approval of funding in November 2009 to support the Panhandling Education and Alternative Giving Campaign, the aggressive panhandling ordinance went into effect on December 1, 2009.

- *Since that time there have been 13 prosecutable citations issued. One of the cases was dismissed on the eve of trial because the victim/witness changed her story and said that she was never asked for money. In another case, the charge was reduced to an infraction as part of a plea agreement because the defendant had several other more serious charges. Three cases were dismissed on the judge's motion. It is speculated that this was because the DA had other more serious cases pending and it was agreed that the panhandling case would be*

dismissed as part of a settlement agreement. Information on the remaining 8 cases are not available at this time.

- *One significant factor is the requirement that victims of aggressive panhandling actively pursue arrest through the Citizens Arrest process. Law enforcement officers are not permitted to arrest solely on observation without active victim participation.*

This recommendation has been completed.

Recommendation: *Continue and expand intergovernmental cooperation to curb negative behavior.*

The Police Department, City Attorney's Office and the courts coordinated to prosecute **chronic offenders** for violation of the City's open container of alcohol ordinance and other Municipal Code violations, such as aggressive panhandling, as misdemeanors instead of infractions. Similarly, those same violations will be prosecuted as misdemeanors if they occur within certain designated **enforcement areas** of the City.

Through a focused collaboration with SB Courts, the SB Police Department, Public Defender, City Attorney, District Attorney and County Jail, a **Restorative Court Program** was initiated in March 2011. Its goal is to identify those defendants arrested in the City of Santa Barbara who may benefit from sobriety and mental health programs or by reuniting them with family. The first session was held on March 16, 2011. Restorative Court is an entirely voluntary court that diverts individuals charged with transient related crimes (e.g. public drunkenness, possession of open container of alcohol, camping in public, and unauthorized removal of shopping carts) from the traditional arraignment court into a separate restorative justice court that focuses on reintegrating individuals into society. The individuals who participate in this program are initially selected for eligibility by Officer Keld Hove or Deputy Public Defender Jennifer Archer. Once an individual is diverted into Restorative Court, he signs a contract indicating that he is waiving his right to a speedy trial and if he fails to successfully complete the program he will be subject to a court trial on police reports alone.

The Restorative Court team members meet every Wednesday in Department 7 at 10:30 a.m. to create case management plans for the new participants and review the case status of its continuing participants. The Restorative Court team is comprised of Commissioner Pauline Maxwell; Officer Keld Hove; Deputy Public Defender Jennifer Archer; Tona Wakefield, the Jail Outreach Coordinator; Charles McClain, supervisor of the Jail's drug and alcohol treatment program; Norma Beneviedes, County Mental Health; and Isabel Blagborne, outreach worker. At 11:00 a.m. the actual court session begins and the participants are brought in to discuss their case management plan. A typical case management plan may include getting an individual into the appropriate alcohol treatment center, coordinating release and availability of medication, locating housing, obtaining identification, and assisting the individual in obtaining social security or disability. The Restorative Policing Officer then develops a plan to transport the defendant into the program. Voluntarily completing the agreed upon program permits minor charges or sentences to be reduced or eliminated by the Santa Barbara Superior Court. Initial review is very positive with several chronic violators accepting treatment.

Bringing Our Community Home applied for and received a City Human Services grant to partially support the **Jail Outreach Coordinator**, who is also a member of the Restorative Court team, speaks with homeless inmates in County jail and provides discharge planning services. The County provides office space and access to inmates. The goal is to work with homeless individuals at a time when they may be more likely to enter a recovery program instead of being released back on the street.

This recommendation has been completed.

***Recommendation:** Continue to utilize Police Department deployment strategies to best meet the immediate demands of the community.*

In Fiscal Year 2010, a retired part-time patrol officer was hired to **patrol State Street**. That part-time position was funded by the City's Downtown Parking Division and the Downtown Organization. The Downtown Organization indicated that they are no longer able to fund their half of the position.

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Tactical Patrol Force (TPF) unit identified 4 areas of the City that produce the greatest number of calls resulting from homeless related issues. They are; Downtown Corridor, Beachfront, Lower Milpas and Upper Milpas. To effectively manage these areas the Police Department **shifts resources as needed** to meet trends in homeless related crime. Additionally, the TPF unit works with Public Works, County agencies and NGO's to identify and post **illegal campsites** and direct outreach resources into the area. Using Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) crews when they become available, the campsites are then scheduled for cleanup.

This **deployment and reporting strategy** has produced significant changes in negative behavior in those areas in a short period. The Tactical Patrol Force officers continue to provide routine enforcement of the downtown corridor, Main Library, the Waterfront area, Milpas Street, and the labor line with heavier penalties in the previously identified enforcement Zones. See chart below for trends.

The Police Department will continue to utilize deployment strategies to best meet the immediate needs of the community.

	Detail Totals	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11
Upper Milpas									
Felony Arrests	9	6	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Misdemeanor Arrests	38	21	5	0	3	3	3	0	3
Misdemeanor Citations	102	41	6	3	11	3	13	14	11
Lower Milpas									
Felony Arrests	15	12	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Misdemeanor Arrests	55	42	4	3	1	0	3	1	1
Misdemeanor Citations	140	64	19	7	10	10	12	15	3
East Beach/Labor Line Grid 12									
Felony Arrests	16	4	2	0	1	3	1	1	4
Misdemeanor Arrests	32	12	2	6	3	1	3	2	3
Misdemeanor Citations	184	36	19	16	16	7	9	31	50
West Beach Grid 13									
Felony Arrests	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Misdemeanor Arrests	35	22	5	0	4	2	1	0	1
Misdemeanor Citations	89	17	15	3	16	3	8	19	8
Downtown Corridor/Grids 40,41, 42									
Felony Arrests	18	10	2	2	0	1	1	1	1
Misdemeanor Arrests	99	56	11	1	8	5	12	2	4
Misdemeanor Citations	339	117	42	10	33	33	33	39	32
Monthly Total Combined Felony Arrests	63	35	7	3	2	4	2	4	6
Monthly Total Combined Misdemeanor Arrests	259	153	27	10	19	11	22	5	12
Monthly Total Combined Misdemeanor Citations	854	275	101	39	86	56	75	118	104

Recommendation: Implement principles of a Recovery Zone for the Milpas Area to the extent legally permissible.

In April 2009, City Police **protested an enhanced liquor license application** for a store at 134 S. Milpas Street, which would have allowed them to sell hard liquor. The applicant eventually withdrew their application and they were told that they would need to gain the support of the community if they wanted the license upgrade. There have been no further requests for either application or modification of liquor licenses in the Recovery Zone.

Based on the Subcommittee's recommendation, the City Council's Legislative Platform has been revised to express the City's **support for state legislation to allow cities and counties to designate "Alcohol Impacted Areas"** and to impose strict local review and controls on the issuance of new ABC permits within such areas.

The Police Department and the City Attorney's Office have coordinated to prosecute individuals found in possession of an open container of alcohol within the anticipated Recovery Zone for violation of a misdemeanor instead of an infraction. When possible, Conditions of Probation or Restorative Court have been added prohibiting them from returning to the location of their arrest.

This recommendation has been completed.

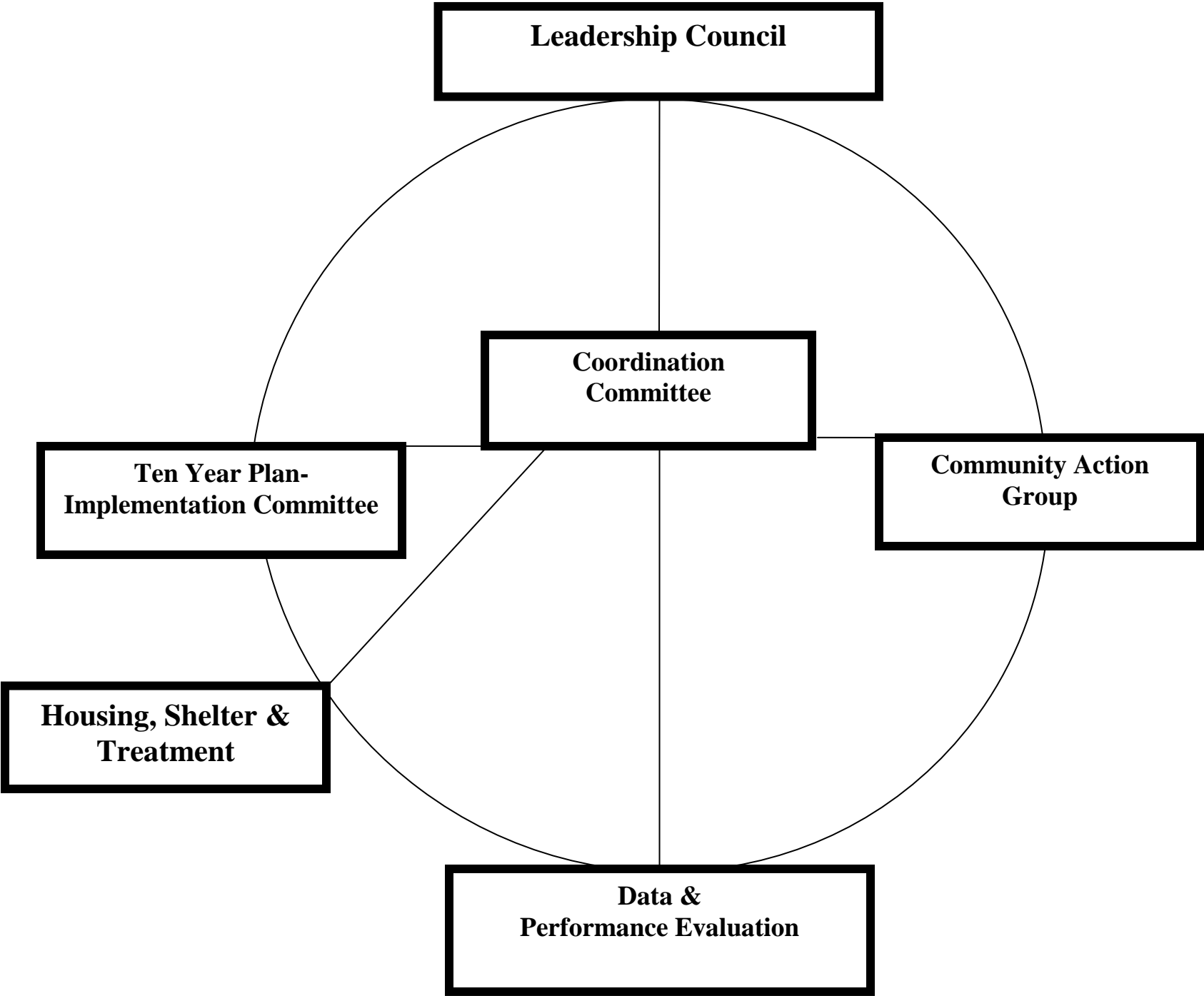
Consolidation of BOCH/Homeless Advisory Committees

Goals:

- Establish leadership by elected officials to identify policy direction(s) on issues related to homelessness
- Build regional involvement between government, non-profit, business, philanthropic, faith and activist communities
- Create synergy between groups to maximize staff participation and utilize volunteer resources effectively
- Establish priority list(s) to address problems and identify measurable outcomes
- Match the appropriate level of participation by each sector with the task that needs to be accomplished

Objectives:

- 1) Combine BOCH and HACs into one regional Homeless Collaborative led by elected representatives from throughout the County. Leadership Council meets quarterly mid-county or in a location where remote testimony is available. Leadership Council includes representatives from the following elected bodies: Board of Supervisors (2); Santa Maria (2); Santa Barbara (2); Goleta (1); Lompoc (1)
- 2) TYP Committee addresses chronic homelessness and the challenges unique to housing and treating that population. HS&T Committee addresses issues related to non-chronic homeless families and individuals. The legal community should be involved in these committees to determine best options for homeless in jail and collaborate with restorative court. County/City departmental staff will work with CBO's and other service providers. This committee needs to incorporate Veterans Affairs, Foster Care, Jail Discharge, Restorative Policing/Homeless Court, public assistance funding (Social Security/ Medical/etc.).
- 3) Coordination Committee will be responsible for making sure that government, business, non-profit, faith and community interests are communicating and working collaboratively using best practices to address regional homeless issues. Coordination Committee will include relevant County and City department leaders to coordinate with the TYP Committee, Housing, Shelter & Treatment stakeholders and the Community Action Group.
- 4) The Community Action Group includes community advocates, business community, faith-based action, volunteers, homeless individuals, etc. The focus will be on grass-roots organizing, street issues, new policy needs, activism and emerging needs. Volunteers will be utilized by housing, shelter and treatment providers when appropriate.
- 5) Data & Performance Evaluation collects, stores and tracks data in order to track progress, identify gaps in services and make changes when necessary. TYP, HS&T, and CAG will provide data. Data & Performance Evaluation will report to Coordination Committee.



Homeless Coordinating Council Staffing Needs

1. Chief Administrator: full-time position housed with BOCH/non-profit entity (funding TBD)
Duties: Administration of Coordinating Council and associated committees. Develop and implement database to warehouse treatment, housing and shelter information to prioritize needs and track results. Establish communication between all stakeholders who provide service to homeless. Promote collaboration and partnership. Establish reliable funding for activities.
Qualities: Social service background; good communication skills; regional outlook;
2. Administrative Staff: 20 hrs/wk (funding TBD)
Duties: Assist Chief Administrator with tasks listed above; prepare agendas & minutes; attend committee meetings as needed.
3. Existing County/City staff roles
4. Volunteer Leadership and Support roles
5. Other ?

Funding

- Existing County and City staff resources dedicated to administration of BOCH/HACs will fold into new structure
- Non-profit entity (BOCH) will submit proposal to foundations for transition period funding for Chief Administrator and part time Administrative Staff position

Next Steps:

- Distribute questionnaire to solicit feedback from wide group of stakeholders and determine coordination structure of committees; identify costs; facilitate effective use of County/City/NGO staff and determine volunteer responsibilities
- Identify priorities for action
- Future workshop/retreat to engage participation and build momentum for the transition period and beyond